SCOTTSDALE – Award-winning political journalist turned public relations consultant Robbie Sherwood will join U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell's staff as district director, Mitchell said today.

"Robbie is tremendously talented and as a journalist showed an uncanny ability to get to the bottom of the issues that affect our state the most," said Mitchell. "He will be a tremendous asset to the people of the Fifth District. I'm very proud to have him on my team."

Sherwood most recently served as communications director for Rose and Allyn Public Relations. He began his journalism career at the East Valley Tribune in 1989, and was the state politics and legislative reporter for The Arizona Republic from 1999 to 2006.

"I very much enjoyed working with clients like the Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction, Vestar, Ballet Arizona and the Colorado River Indian Tribes, and I owe Jason Rose a great deal of gratitude for the opportunity he gave me to change careers," said Sherwood. "But I have always had the deepest respect and admiration for Harry Mitchell and his record of public service. When Congressman Mitchell called and asked me to be a part of his team, I couldn't say no. I look forward to serving Congressman Mitchell and the people of this district for many years to come."

During his time as a journalist, Sherwood earned the 2006 Arizona Newspapers Association Freedom of Information Award, the 1996 Associated Press Managing Editors Award, and 1996 the Thomsen Newspapers Award for News Story of the Year. He and fellow Republic reporter Chip Scutari won the 2003 Association of Opinion Page Editors Award for Best Editorial Series for their essays on the state's budget woes.

Sherwood will join the staff next month.